

Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EB-07 IGA-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /028 W

----- 122159

R 120941Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6921

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

INFO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 192

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, DM

SUBJ: COTONOU BRIDGE/DAM: LOAN 625-W-009-

CONDITIONS PRECEDENT

DEPT ALSO PAS AF/W

REF A. ABIDJAN 1061 B. STATE 29875

1. EMBASSY DISTURBED BY REF A WHICH IMPLIES THAT DEOBLIGATION OF THIS LOAN IS BEING SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED. AS REF A NOTED, MAJOR CAUSE FOR DELAY OF ENTIRE PROJECT HAS BEEN LONG DELAY ON PART OF AMERICAN CONSULTING ENGINEERS, SANDERS AND THOMAS, IN SUBMITTING BID DOCUMENTS AND THEIR FAILURE VISIT ABIDJAN AND COTONOU TO DISCUSS PROJECT WITH AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK OFFICIALS AND DAHOMEAN GOVT AUTHORITIES. WHILE DAHOMEANS HAVE NOT MADE MUCH PROGRESS TOWARDS MEETING CONDITIONS PRECEDENT (CPS), WE BELIEVE THEY HAVE NOT FELT ANY URGENT NEED TO DO SO SINCE, WITHOUT THE BID DOCUMENTS FROM SANDERS AND THOMAS, NO CALL FOR BIDS COULD BE ISSUED. (WE GATHER FROM REF B THAT THE BID DOCUMENTS MUST BE EN ROUTE TO COTONOU BY SEA POUCH). IN ADDITION, EMBASSY UNAWARE REDSO HAD MADE SEVERAL APPROCHES TO DAHOMEAN GOVT RE SATISFACTION OF CONDITIONS PRECEDENT, AS CLAIMED IN REF A. ONLY SUCH APPROACH WE CAN RECALL WAS MADE BY REDSO TDY CLARK IN MID NOV. (THIS CONNECTION IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT BARON AND BERGIER WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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SLATED MEET WITH PUBLIC WORKS DIR GBAGUIDI RE COTONOU BRIDGE-

DAM ON 24 JAN UPON THEIR RETURN FROM INSPECTION PARAKOU-MALANVILLE ROAD BUT, ACCORDING TO GBAGUIDI, SCHEDULE DID NOT PERMIT MEETING.

2. UNABLE UNDERSTAND REF A PARA 7. WOULD APPRECIATE TRANSLATION FROM BUREAUCRATIZE INTO ENGLISH. HOW WILL THE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM'S ANALYSIS AFFECT THE FUTURE OF THIS PROJECT? WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE PHRASE: "THE ANALYSIS IS COMPLETELY BACKED UP BY NETWORKS FOR COTONOU BRIDGE/DAM DEVELOPED BY REDSO..."?

3. ON RECEIPT REF A WE PLANNED TAKE UP MATTER WITH GBAGUIDI. IN VIEW UPCOMING JACKSON VISIT (ABIDJAN 1155) ON 12 FEB, WE HAVE DECIDED TO DO IT WITH JACKSON.

4. COMMENT: DEOBLIGATION OF THIS LOAN WILL BE SETBACK TO DAHOMEAN DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS AND WOULD SERIOUSLY DAMAGE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE DAHOMEAN GOVT. IN THE PRESENT HIGHLY CHARGED POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT IN DAHOMEY, DEOBLIGATION WOULD BE CERTAINLY BE INTERPRETED BY THE MILITARY REGIME AS USG POLITICAL SANCTION AGAINST IT FOR HAVING ADOPTED MARXIST-LENINISM. CURRENT DAHOMEAN LEADERSHIP, WHICH UNDERSTANDS LITTLE IN REGARD TO INTRICACIES OF FOREIGN AID, WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GRASP WHY USG CANNOT GET THE ENTIRE PROJECT MOVING. FINALLY, WE WONDER IF THIS PROJECT IS BEING TRATED SOMEWHAT DIFFERENTLY FROM OTHERS BECAUSE OF ITS INCLUSION IN MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS ANALYSIS. WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THIS PARTICULAR SYSTEMS ANALYSIS APPROACH, BUT OUR EXPERIENCE ELSEWHERE WITH THIS TYPE OF DEVICE IS NOT REASSURING. WE WOULD WANT TO MAKE THE POINT THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE A SUITABLE SITUATION IN WHICH TO TRY OUT A NEW BUREAUCRATIC OR COMPUTER DECISION MAKING OR DECISION ASSISTING GADGET, PARTICULARLY IF ITS PURPOSE IS TO SUBSTITUTE FOR HUMAN JUDGMENT.

5. ACTION RECOMMENDED:

A. FOR AID/W: (1) TO TAKE OPTION BE IN REF A PARA 3 (EXTENSION OF TDCP TO NOV 1, 1975, FOR CONDITIONS PRECEDENT) INSTEAD OF HASTY ACTION TO DEOBLIGATE LOAN. THE LONG HISTORY OF THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN FULL OF SETBACKS; WE CAN SURELY GET CONFIDENTIAL

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BY THE CURRENT OBSTACLE AND MOVE AHEAD.

(2) IF, IN SPITE OF OUR ADVICE, DEOBLIGATION IS FAVORED, THERE SHOULD BE CONSULTATION WITH AF/W RE IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR POLICY TOWARD DAHOMEY BEFORE DECISION IS MADE.

B. FOR ABIDJAN: WOULD APPRECIATE EXPLANATION OF (1) REF A PARA 7, AND (2) DESCRIPTION IN A FEW SENTENCES OF THE MANAGE-

MENT AFORMATION SYSTEMS ANALYSIS YOU ARE RELAYING ON.
ENGLE

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